a weight loss basis unless a passenger has declared a higher value and has paid the applicable valuation charge in advance. This is in accordance with the Warsa Convention (1.29) as amended by the Hague Protocol (1955).

Improvement of Air India's Image

*38. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Ticket to ride: Air India Style" appearing in 'The Times of India', New Delhi of the 17th April, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve not only the country's but Air India's image too particularly during the current 'Visit India' Year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Flight AI-308 of January 5, 1991 was over booked and resulted in offloading of 39 passengers. Since flights of other carriers on the route were heavily booked, alternative arrangements could not be made immediately and the group sponsored by Toppan Travel Service travelled by AI-302 on the 8th January, 1991. The passengers of this group were lodged in the hotel of their choice and all efforts were made to put them on the earliest available flight.

(c) The Government is making efforts to ensure that Air India gives foremost priority to customer satisfaction and thereby rebuild its image as an efficient airline that cares for its passengers.

Increase in the prices of Coal

*39. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase the prices of coal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and also the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The last revision of prices of coal produced by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) based on the indices of June, 1988 and January 1989 were made effective from 1-1-89 and 24-1-1989 respectively.

Since then there has been substantial increase in the cost of production due to increase in the cost of inputs like wages on account of NCWA-IV, V.D.A., explosive, POL and rate of interest etc. Therefore, CIL & SCCL have submitted proposals to increase the price of coal produced by them. No decision has been taken by the Government so far.

Separate Power Grid for Mayur Vihar, Delhi

*40. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work for a separrate 66 K.V. electricity grid for cluster of group housing societies in Mayur Vihar Phase One extension, Delhi has been completed by DESU;

(b) if not, what are reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when it will be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) According to DESU, the 66 KV Grid Sub-station at Mayur Vihar Phase-I has been commissioned in March, 1991. The Sub-station has a firm capacity of 20 MVA. The new Sub-station has been commissioned to avoid the problems faced by the residents of the area. The cluster of Group Housing Societies in the area are getting the benefit of this Sub-station.

Power shortage in North-East Region

28. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute power shortage in the entire North-East Region;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Thermal Power Station in Assam has not been functioning well; and

(c) whether Government propose to tap major power source by implementing Sobansiri Dam Project on river Brahmaputra in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) During the period April-June, 1991, the energy shortage in North-East Region was 6.7 per cent as against the All India Average shortage of 8.8 per cent.

(b) The PLF of thermal power station in Assam during April-June, 1991 was 29.6 per cent as against the target of 31.9 per cent.

(c) The Subansiri Dam Project proposal is at a preliminary stage. Certain environmental and rehabilitation aspects are being further investigated. The Government of India has also taken up the matter with the Arunachal Pradesh ,where most of the submergence would take place. After the outstanding issues are sorted out, the project can be taken up, depending upon the availability of funds.

Decline in the production of coal

29. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal production in the country has declined during the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, what was its production during the year 1990-91 and reasons for the shortfall;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is deterioration in the coal distribution system in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government have enquired into the affairs of Coal India Limited; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the enquiry and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) and (b) The coal production in the country during 1990-91 was 211.73 million tonnes. It was 10.84 million tonnes higher than the coal production in previous year.

(c) No, Sir, The coal despatches to various sectors during 1990-91 increased by 8.46 million tonnes over the previous year.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.